

REMARKS

Claims 10-14 have been cancelled, claim 15 has been amended to include the limitation that was recited in dependent claims 19, 20, and 21, and claims 19, 20, and 21 have been cancelled.

Claim 15, as amended, recites Apparatus for producing electronic video signals representative of color images of a scene, including: a sensor having a color filter thereover; a lens system that focuses light from the image onto the color filter and sensor; and means for producing electronic video signals from the output of the sensor; the sensor comprising a sensor array having alternate lines offset by half a pixel spacing, and diagonally coupled pixels on successive lines, and the color filter having repeating R, G, and B patterns offset on successive lines so that R pixels are arranged diagonally, G pixels are arranged diagonally, and B pixels are arranged diagonally; the means for producing electronic video signals from the output of the sensor including a first register coupled with the diagonally arranged R pixels of a group of lines, a second register coupled with the diagonally arranged G pixels of the group of lines, and a third register coupled with the diagonally arranged B pixels of the group of lines.

The Office Action acknowledges that the primary citation, Kawahara U.S. Patent 4,758,883, does not disclose the claim limitation that the means for producing electronic video signals from the output of the sensor includes the elements summarized above, but argues that this feature is obvious over the teachings of the Uchiyama et al. U.S.

Patent 5,194,944. This argument is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

Uchiyama et al. discloses an image signal processing apparatus that has a vertical register for storing and transferring color signals, and a horizontal register for receiving color signals transferred from the vertical register. Figures 3 and 4 of Uchiyama illustrate these registers and their operation.

An analysis of the operation of Uchiyama and its registers reveals that they operate to produce B, R, and G signals from image sensing areas and image storage areas using conventional frame transfer CCDs in a conventional cardinally arranged sequence, and there is no disclosure whatsoever in Uchiyama relating to diagonally offset color pixels or how they would be selected for read-out into registers, as is shown in Figure 5 of Applicant's specification and set forth in the claims at issue. Further, Applicant respectfully asks: Why would one skilled in the art seek to use the scheme of Uchiyama with the sensor of Kawahara et al., in the absence of Applicant's teachings and hindsight? Still further, the arrangement of Uchiyama, connected with the sensor of Kawahara, would still not give Applicant's claimed apparatus, as the wrong pixels would be coupled to the wrong register taps. The only incentive for modifying the registers of Uchiyama to a diagonally oriented arrangement would come from Applicant's own teachings, and this is certainly not a proper basis for a conclusion of obviousness. Accordingly, the patentability of the amended claims is evident.

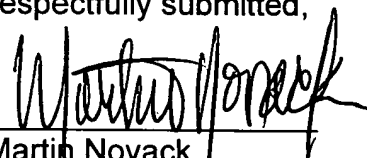
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the Application is now in condition for

allowance, and such favorable action is earnestly solicited. In the event that the Examiner is not persuaded, it is asked that he kindly telephone the undersigned Counsel collect so that any remaining issues can be resolved.

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Respectfully submitted,


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